

Soldiers participate in '03 Clear Creek Hatchery salmon giveaway

Nisqually tribe and Fort Lewis team up to protect salmon

By Joe Barrentine
Northwest Guardian

Instead of standing in line with dozens of people at the Clear Creek Fish Hatchery, Staff Sgt. Maurice Worthington jumped right in and helped out.

Worthington assisted the hatchery in distributing fish as a part of its annual giveaway, in which about 10,000 salmon were handed out.

"It's no different than trying to catch a big catfish," said the Louisiana native from the 497th Transportation Company. "The guys in my unit kept giving me a hard time because I've never seen a salmon before so I thought I'd come down and see what they were all about."

Clad in hip-waders, chest deep in 42-degree water, Worthington helped hatchery employees and other volunteers herd

hundreds of struggling king salmon into pens. After sorting the fish by sex and sedating them, each fish was checked for implanted sensors before they were given away.

"We get about seven percent return (of the fish with sensors)," said Bill St. Jean, the hatchery's enhancement biologist.

He said about 400,000 salmon are tagged before release for research purposes.

Built in the mid '90s with federal money and run by the Nisqually Tribe, the Clear Creek Hatchery produces more than 4 million salmon a year for the salmon runs along the Nisqually River.

"We're trying to make the next generation (of salmon) out here," St. Jean said.

From fertilization through release, the Chinook are kept for nine months and the coho are kept for a full year before being released. The Chinook, also known as king salmon, spend two to four years in the ocean. The coho or silvers spend a year and a half — then they return home

to spawn.

From late September until mid-November, the salmon work their way up river, from the Puget Sound, returning to the same little nook in the river where they were born — a holding pond, just off Clear Creek.

Then the cycle begins again.

Several off duty soldiers turned out to help make the process as smooth as possible for the busy hatchery workers and the dozens of people waiting for fish.

"A lot of people think that soldiers always want something but they never look at all the good work we do for others," said Sgt. 1st Class Bob Tucker, a volunteer fish thrower from 1st Special Forces Group. "I like coming out here and helping out. Anything to help folks out."

For several soldiers in line however, it was just a good day to get some free fish for a unit barbeque.

"I don't fish, but I could get used to this," said Sgt. Mike Lutz, 497th Trans. Co., as he pulled a large king salmon out of a bin.



Joe Barrentine

Ken Choke, a hatchery worker, sends a coho salmon through one of the hatchery's sensor detectors. More than 10,000 salmon were given away this year.

Cascade Steel IV prepares logisticians for war



Joe Barrentine

Capt. Jinoo Choi, 311th COSCOM, works in the tactical operations center during exercise Cascade Steel IV Oct. 17. More than 500 soldiers from around the country took part in the seven-day combined virtual and field exercise on Fort Lewis.

311th Corps Support Command works with active, reserve components on exercise to sharpen skills for deployments

By Kayla Cogdill
Contributing Writer

Soldiers from all over the country in the Army Reserve, National Guard and active duty participated in a joint week-long training exercise to support 1st Corps units during wartime deployments.

The exercise, Cascade Steel IV, which ends tomorrow, enforced the soldiers' support abilities in areas of maintenance, supply and medical units.

Specific training objectives set by the command, allowed all the elements of the 311th Corps Support Command to come together in a simulated wartime environment to better develop command and control issues, staff planning and soldier proficiency in their logistic mission to support 1st Corps. Cascade Steel IV was planned after last year's Warfighter 2002 exercise that prepared 1st Corps soldiers and leaders for combat.

"Collective training opportunities for logistic units are hard to come by," said Maj. Gen. Paul Mock, commander and exercise director. "The 311th COSCOM wartime down trace only has one major opportunity per year to do that. The Cascade Steel series of exercises especially this one, gives the opportunity to focus on training on a collective level to combat services support units and provide training that replicates as closely as possible to battlefield logistics."

The 311th, headquartered in Los Angeles, provides the command and control element to organize and deploy a combat service support structure that will execute the movements, material management, maintenance and medical services required to sustain and maintain 1st Corps. The COSCOM is derived of units from Arizona, Missouri, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Iowa and Alabama. Over 500 soldiers participated in the exercise.

The operational scenario took place in fictional country of Pacifica, which replicated the island of Luzon in the Philippines. Elements of the fictional scenario utilized heavy and light forces such as armored cavalry regiments and the Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

"The Strykers have special needs and we have to know how to support those needs," said Master Sgt. Tim Salas, operations center noncommissioned officer in charge. "We are going to have to be on the ball to be one step ahead of this fast-moving element. This also means that the prediction logistics need to be accurate and stay one step ahead also."

Another new element to Cascade Steel IV is the hours of operation. Instead of operating 24 hours straight, it is only a 12-hour simulation. By only operating 12 hours at a time, it allows daily commander's briefs to ensure units stay focused and understand what is being asked of

"The lessons and relationships built during exercises like this are essential to accomplishing our mission for 1st Corps."

Capt. Casey Miner

them and also daily collective after-action reviews with all unit leadership to continue the learning process, said Capt. Casey Miner, public affairs officer.

"If we don't reach a certain learning curve we can stop the computers and start over," said Miner.

The computers are really a combat service support training simulation system that unexpectedly creates scenarios that have ripple effects for the 311th to handle.

The exercise operated at a slower pace than Warfighter 2002 did because it is not driven by the war fighting soldiers. It allows the staff to refine their skills and procedure techniques. This focus on logistics management would allow war fighters to keep fighting in a real wartime environment, said Col. Robert Bean, chief of staff.

One major complication of training a logistics team is the high turnover rate. Soldiers can be mobilized or deployed at any given time.

"This training will be the last collective training before deployment for many of the soldiers," said Maj. Damon Mathis, operations exercise planner.

Even though the turnover rate is high, one soldier is still impressed with the success of the exercise.

"I always have a good feeling about it is over," said Spc. Michael Shults. "It is definitely worthwhile. It is really impressive how everybody jumps back on track when they get here because nobody does this every day. It also gives me a chance to do the job I was trained to do and develop leadership skills to train other soldiers that don't have the same experience that I do."

Shults works in the direct operations center to enemy activity during battles using maps and digital programs.

"The lessons and relationships built during exercises like this are essential to accomplishing our mission for 1st Corps," Miner said. "Really this is an incredible opportunity for the leaders and soldiers to work as they would if mobilized."

Greenwood community pulls together, makes fund-raiser a success

Parent-Teacher Organization's book fair rakes in \$3,000

By Joe Barrentine
Northwest Guardian

The Parent-Teacher Organization of Greenwood Elementary School sponsored a book fair last week to raise funds for personal classroom libraries. A steady stream of volunteer parents manned the sales table at the school's library throughout the week.

Tables and shelves of new books and other educational and fun merchandise filled the library, all geared toward getting children excited about reading.

"We're trying to get the kids to start reading early on," said Gloria Bradford, chairwoman of the event. "Before they start school even."

Diana Dix, an instructional facilitator at Greenwood said the community response in both volunteerism and purchasing has been great.

"The community of Greenwood is always willing to share their expertise

with us by supporting events and volunteering when asked," she said.

Parents came out for many reasons, some to help and some to play with all the toys.

"I just volunteer so I can play," said Tanda Cook, only half joking as she played with designer pens and pencils.

Several portable bookshelves loaded with titles as varied as the children they are aimed at filled the shelves.

Parents and children roamed the tables and shelves looking for books for their homes and classrooms.

Every teacher at the school was encouraged to create a wish list of books that parents could donate to each class, Dix said.

"Every teacher received at least one book for their classroom reading library," she said.

Older titles featuring a curious monkey and a familiar man in a yellow hat or an oversized red dog shared space with newer titles like "Giggle, Giggle, Quack" or the "Judie B."

"There's more children's authors now than ever before," said Sharon Brumbaugh, a fifth grade teacher. She was there bolstering her own class-



Joe Barrentine

Teri Bradford, 7, makes a wish list of books at Greenwood Elementary School's book fair last week. The fair raised \$3,000 to buy books for the school's classrooms.

room's reading selection.

Dix said the fund-raiser was a success.

"This year we had a goal of \$3,000

and met that goal," she said. "The book fair provides funds for purchasing library books so that all students have more variety in books available."

STORK REPORT

The following births were recorded at Madigan Army Medical Center.

- Randolph**, Kimberly and Daniel, girl, Aug. 3;
- Reyes**, Paulette and Ty, boy, July 18;
- Rittenberry**, Lorrie and Scott, girl, Aug. 16;
- Romiza**, Jody and Scott, boy, Aug. 11;
- Rosales**, Jennifer and Edgar, girl, Aug. 18;
- Salter**, Samantha and Richard, girl, July 17;
- Satterwhite**, Cindy and Jason, boy, July 25;
- Saucedo**, Cynthia and Salvador, boy, Aug. 4;
- Sauls**, Cassie and Tim, girl, Aug. 13;
- Saulsbury**, Renee and Paul, girl, July 23;
- Schail**, Andrea and Emmett, girl, July 25;
- Silva**, Roseanna and Bobby, boy, Aug. 22;
- Somers**, Kelsey and Derrick, girl, Aug. 12;
- Stine**, Brianna and David, girl, July 11;
- Stuart**, Jerusha and Joshua, boy, Aug. 19;
- Turner**, Latoya and Damien, girl, Aug. 24; and
- Vallejo**, Sarah and Anthony, girl, July 21.